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## TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES MEMORANDUM

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TO: GINA INGUANZO, TOWN CLERK  
FROM: BRANDON SCHAAD, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING *BS*  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGNS  
DATE: AUGUST 16, 2016

Based on recent court rulings, "political campaign signs" may no longer be classified and regulated separately from other temporary signs under the Town's Land Development Code (LDC). Rather, all temporary signs are to be subject to the same regulations, regardless of the subject matter(s) on any particular sign. Thus, these signs will be subject to the least restrictive regulations applicable to any temporary sign.

Although this means a drastic change to the way such signs will be allowed on private property, the rules applicable to public property (i.e. street rights-of-ways, public parks, etc.) remains the same: they are not allowed, and will be removed and disposed of if placed there.

Following are the basic requirements from the Land Development Code (LDC) for political campaign signage.

Time limitations – Signs may be placed for a maximum of 90 days, regardless of when they are placed.

Number and placement – Signs must be set back from all property lines at least five feet. Generally, signs may not be attached to trees, utility poles, fences or similar, nor may fences or walls be painted to form a sign. However, where a property directly abuts a roadway and there is a fence or wall on the property line, a sign may be attached to a pole or similar apparatus such that the sign is high enough to be visible above the fence or wall. Signs may not be placed so as to constitute a danger to public safety (i.e. interfering with the ability of a driver to see oncoming traffic).

Due to court rulings as discussed above, the number of signs that may be allowed on each private property (whether residential or commercial) depends on a number of factors peculiar to each property. In practical effect, the number of signs allowed on each property is essentially unlimited.

Size and height – Due to recent court rulings mandating equal treatment of signs regardless of subject matter, each sign may be up to 40 square feet, (which includes any “frame” around the sign) and may be up to 15 feet tall.

Permitting – No permit is required temporary signs, except where a sign will be illuminated or if the method of installation otherwise requires a building permit under the terms of the Florida Building Code.

Please note that homeowner’s associations, or restrictive covenants, may have more stringent rules. Property owners should also check those requirements, where applicable.

Anyone with questions about these regulations should feel free to contact me.

Thank you.

cc: Alex Rey, Town Manager